

**November 1, 2010 – 10:00 A.M. – DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING – Newton County Courthouse**

Present were Board Members Chr. Russell Collins, Roxanna Hanford & James Pistello; County Engineer Larry Holderly; Surveyor Chris Knochel; Secretary Debra Honn. Meeting was called to order by Chr. Russell Collins.

**Minutes** – Roxanna stated there was an inconsistency in the October 18<sup>th</sup> minutes as to how her name was spelled. She asked that the errors be corrected and motioned for approval of minutes once that had been completed. Second motion made by Jim Pistello.

**Bid letting** – Chris stated it was scheduled for 10:30 and we still have a few minutes before we can proceed. It was therefore decided to go to another topic.

**O’Brien Extension** – Chris stated that Jeff Welsh is present as one of the landowners affected by this issue and that the board should have copy of return dated 6/7/2010. The upper section gives a history, the length of drain and watershed that has changed intermittently by adding acreages and shows that the last work was done in September 2005 when sediment was removed. The lower section shows the emergency repairs that were needed this Spring and the regulated portion at the outlet end which has not been historically maintained. That section, since it has not been maintained, had trees break which then fell in. When the regulated water hit that area it rechanneled itself and cut a new channel thru Mr. Welsh’s field. Ronnie Madison was called out there immediately by Chris to pull those trees out and even strengthen the channel to de- water in that area. Russ asked if we then need to add that portion to which Chris stated we need to add the regulated portion that has not historically been assessed or maintained. Roxanna wanted to know why it was not included in the first place to which Chris responded that he did not have an explanation as to why. Roxanna wanted to know if there were in fact other areas with the same situation of unassessed drains to which Chris said he was sure there were. Jim stated that some of those had already been found. Russ asked Jeff Welsh if he had any problem with this. Jeff stated that he thought it was great what they had fixed already and that his main question was why it had not been included before. He also said that they needed to finish the job that was started as there were still obstructions in the way so it still needed some work. Roxanna wanted to know who was paying for the unassessed portion. Chris explained that there had been no repairs up to this point to which Roxanna stated that Chris said he had sent Ronnie Madison out to do tree removal and repairs so that the ditch would flow as it should instead of through Mr. Welsh’s field. Chris stated most of Ronnie’s work had been done in the regulated portion; however the charges for the unregulated section were assigned to the General Drain Improvement Fund. Russ asked if there was a motion to add this unregulated section. Roxanna asked what the assessment rate would be and then found that the assessed rate would be \$3.58/per affected acre. It is still being assessed. Jim made the motion to add the regulated but unassessed portion to the O’Brien Extension and Roxanna made a second to the motion at the rate of \$3.58/acre. Motion carried.

**Bid letting – Salisbury Open** – There were three proposals received. The first bid was from EJ Mattocks & son in the amount of \$10,500.00. The second proposal was from Ronnie Madison Excavation in the amount of \$9,550.00. The third proposal was from Josh DeYoung in the amount of \$15,000.00. Chris’ estimate was \$16,634.35. Jim made the motion to accept the Ronnie Madison’s bid in the amount of \$9,550.00 as long as it meets Chris’ specs since he is the lowest bidder. Roxanna seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Goodland - Chris** was contacted by two different engineering firms working on two different drains in Goodland. The first is Roush Tile Extension which they want to extend according to their plan and the second is the Goodland Lateral Extension which will be affected by the Rhuede factory addition on the south side of town. Preliminary study has been done and they were asking about any storm water concerns. A two stage ditch would not have been that effective and there were no landowners that wanted to turn good, producing farmland into wet lands. Jim then asked if we have done anything to alleviate the flooding to which Chris responded “no”. Chris stated what is interesting about this inquiry is that they will need to develop some type of storm water management for the new development. We should be able to incorporate something into the storm water needs for the town by whatever we can advocate on the new development. Jim asked if the new development takes place and the town floods again, are we responsible. Chris stated they cannot come back on us. The only way they can is if we ignore the fact that they need a storm water plan and fail to address the issue with them. Jim stated that we have addressed and they haven’t done anything yet. Chris states that as a county we have no storm water plan for them to copy so that they would be compatible. Roxanna said they can develop the plan and we will pattern our plan after theirs. We are correcting the drains and culverts and working with the town to correct the ditch. Town is condemning the property upstream from culvert under Central Ave. County Highway won’t do anything with the culvert until we do something with the ditch. We have trees in the way, etc. and it all takes time. Jim stated it is not our highway department holding things up. Chris stated it is our office that needs to work with the landowners to have trees removed. Russ asked if this project is by Greens. Chris stated that is the Moran project and that it was remarked at Union St. It runs across drainage easement. It was marked late on the day Friday. Chris stated that the US 24 culvert had been surveyed and sent to the engineering and design department at INDOT for them to design something. He has not yet heard of a decision. We have a problem with structure and as the state said, until you open the ditch up, we cannot do anything. So we have corrected the grade and storage of the ditch.

**Haynes-Turner III-** The contract was signed and Chris stated that Deb is going to monitor the fund balance to see how much we will have to advance since the work is moving at such a rapid pace. We estimate that we will need to borrow from the General Drain Improvement Fund for approximately 2 years after the work has been done and we have reached repair mode.

**Watershed Alteration-** Chris stated that clarity was needed as to how we are going to address this issue. Are we including only those affected by the Camblin or all in the Carlson watershed? After much discussion Russ stated that notice for the special drainage board meeting should only be sent to those affected by the Camblin since they are the ones being added. However if we change the watershed then there are people that need to be made aware. The hearing date was scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 P.M. at the Newton County Government Center with Deb confirming availability of large conference room. \*Refer to audio tape for further discussion\*

**Maplebrook - Chris** thanked Dan Blaney for his help in finding resolution concerning the drainage easement and Nipsco poles. Chris has spoken with the engineer and the situation is progressing.

**Other Matters** – Chris stated that he had an estimate that came into his office today regarding the **Beaver Creek** and a section that needs to be dipped. Dorothy Molson was present and stated that Ronnie Madison had prepared the estimate in the amount of \$20,000. Chris stated that the last work done on the ditch had been in 2003-2004. He also asked if we needed to have the project open to other contractors. Jim stated that we usually ask for bids on \$5000.00 projects. Therefore we need to be consistent on what we do so bids would be necessary. Russ stated that we also need specs on the project to which Jim asked how soon Chris could have them completed. Chris stated he could have something back in 2 weeks. Roxanna made a motion for the Molson/Beaver Creek project to be opened to bids with review scheduled in two weeks. The second motion was made by Jim. The motion was carried to discuss 11/15/10 at the special drainage board meeting in the government center. Dorothy Molson is to be on notice.

Dan Blaney stated that he and Chris have been working on the **Knight-Moffitt Ditch** project for which they are experiencing difficulties with the railroad. The railroad is stating that whatever we do will have an effect on the structure. Dan suggested that the next thing we should do is have a meeting and invite them to which Roxanna agreed.

Rev. Howard of the Newton County Baptist Church was present to ask questions regarding the **Kent Ditch issue** and how it relates to the Town of Kentland, Kentland Conservancy, Drainage Board and the county. Chris stated that Larry Holderly, Steve Ryan and Chris need to be involved with the Town of Kentland in resolving since it involves the conservancy district. Much conversation followed with the final suggestion being that Rev. Howard also attend the meeting once it is scheduled.

There being no other business, Roxanna made the motion to adjourn. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.